



### FEATURED NEWS

The European Union signs a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with Honduras within the framework of the FLEGT regulation.

EFI-FLEGT, 15/06/2018 - [LINK TO THE NEWS ITEM](#)

The European Commission launches a public consultation on the scope of EUTR products.

29/01/2018 – 24/04/2018 - [LINK TO THE NEWS ITEM](#)

INTERPOL support for stopping environmental crimes in the forestry sector.

21/03/2018 - [LINK TO THE NEWS ITEM](#)



### NEWS

MAPA, 06/02/2018



Launching of the “EUTR” computer system for submitting declarations of responsibility on marketed timber

[LINK TO THE NEWS ITEM](#)

MAPA, 16/03/2018



Spain validates 2,000 validated FLEGT licences for trading legal timber imported from Indonesia

[LINK TO THE NEWS ITEM](#)

MAPA, 05-06/02/2018

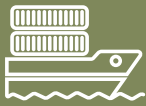


## Spain fosters the Mediterranean Timber Group

The General Directorate for Rural Development, Innovation and Forest Policy establishes the bases, together with Portugal, for Mediterranean coordination as a tool to fight against illegal trafficking of timber products among the 9 Member States of the region.

This Group is established as a place for meeting and exchange of information with the aim of optimizing and coordinating common resources, establishing, where appropriate, joint control mechanisms necessary for stopping illegal trade throughout the Mediterranean.

The countries that met last 5 and 6 June were: Cyprus, Spain, Slovenia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal, all committing themselves to continue this fruitful collaboration and establishing an annual frequency of coordination meetings.



## Risky imports

### High risk of illegal use of teak timber imported from Myanmar.

**Imports, especially of teak (*Tectona grandis*), from this Asian country represent a high risk of not complying with the requirements established by the EUTR Regulation.**

The current Burmese systems are complex to external actors and involve risks for the agents at the moment of showing the traceability of the chain of custody. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) of Myanmar, in a **public statement**, recognises this risk, which implies a breach of the agent's due diligence requirements pursuant to the provisions of the EUTR regulations.

Within this framework, the **Environmental Investigation Agency** (EIA) already presented a report in 2016 highlighting the difficulty of marketing this type of timber.

In this context, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands have been undertaking checking procedures on importing companies, and in all the cases studied, breaches of the EUTR have been detected.

In November 2016, a **Swedish administrative court** ruled, for the first time in Europe, that a company, – Almtra Nordic – a teak importer from Myanmar, had breached EUTR obligations. According to the steps of this historic ruling, the different countries involved in the control campaign have resolved the paralysis of imports with regard to the companies assessed.

Therefore, imports of teak from Myanmar are still not recommended, as acknowledged by the European Commission's own **EUTR Expert Group** on 19 June 2018, stating that in cases of risk of illegality like this, regulations require that the timber is traced to the region of origin of the country of use, providing evidence that goes beyond the official documents.

### High risk of illegality of Ipê wood from Brazil

**Two reports recently published by Greenpeace reveal well-founded suspicions of illegality in imports of this species from Brazil.**

The first report reveals the conflict in the property rights of the existing plots, particularly in the **area of Rondonia**, evidencing the existing violence in the area and the means used in certain cases in order to deforce plots for the timber exploitation.

The second report exposes suspicions of **overestimation of Ipê densities** (*Tabebuia impetiginosa* and *T. serratifolia*) in local forest inventories, particularly in concessions near protected areas.

Several **scientific studies** confirm the overestimation in certain Brazilian concessions of species, including the Ipê, which is especially important for its market value.

According to the conclusions of the **EUTR Expert Group** of the European Commission, agents importing timber from Brazil that does not come from any plantation must take appropriate risk mitigation measures, not basing the result of their risk analysis solely on documentary controls. In these cases, verifications made by duly accredited third parties or clear evidence of legality in origin are necessary.



## Working to comply with #maderalegal requirements

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) works at different levels in order to optimise the effectiveness of the norm and guarantee the respect of forestry, commercial and social regulations related with timber use.

### International Coordination

- ▶ **Meeting of the EU - CHINA Bilateral Coordination Mechanism (BCM) on the application of forest law and governance.** 07 March 2018. We are looking for the best way to fight illegal timber together with China. ([See](#) information on the BCM)
- ▶ **Commission Expert Group on EU Timber Regulation and the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Regulation.** Brussels, 26 February, 19 April, 20 June 2018. Commission meetings with the 28 Member States in order to unify criteria for applying FLEGT and EUTR regulations within the EU. ([See](#) information on the Group meetings)
- ▶ **Implementation of EUTR by the Relevant Authorities of the Member States of the Mediterranean area.** Portugal-Spain, Lisbon, 5-6 June 2018. Working to harmonise the joint control actions between the Member States with similar casuistry in commercial flows.

### National Coordination

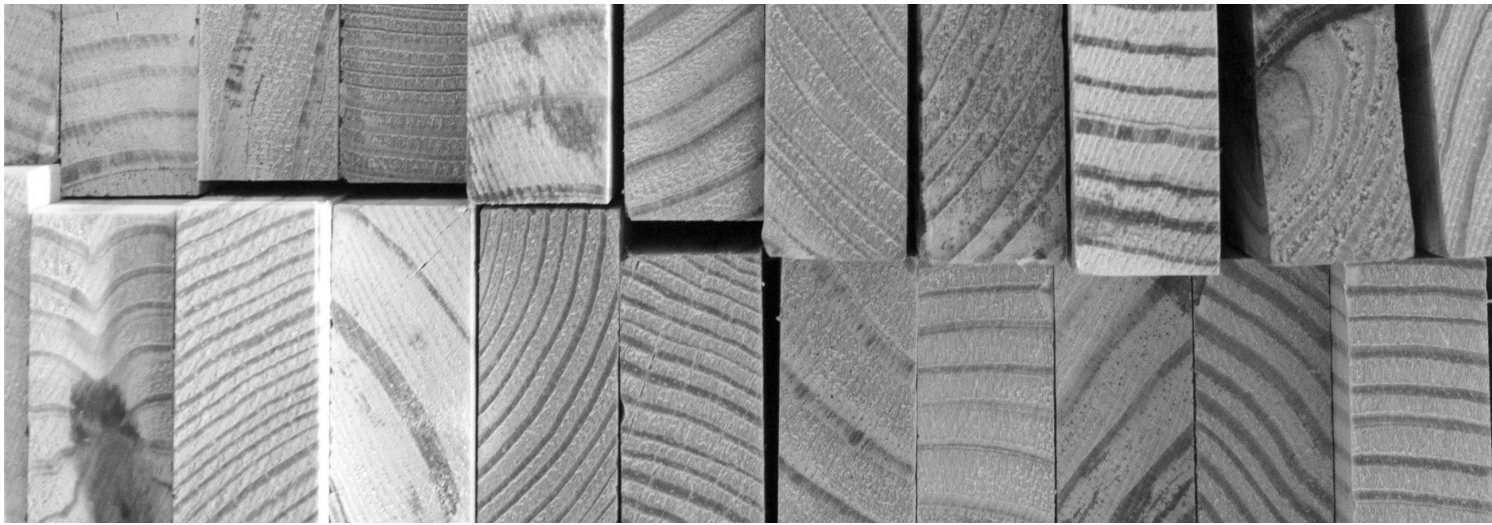
- ▶ **Working group on the fight against illegal timber trade.** DGDRIPF, Madrid, 24 April 2018. Meeting of the coordinating body for the harmonised application of EUTR control between the Relevant Authorities of the autonomous regions.



## Communication to comply with #maderalegal requirements

The MAPA fosters and participates in different courses to communicate the obligations within the EUTR framework

- ▶ **Course on marketing legalization.** AEIM, 09 March 2018. MAPA participation.
- ▶ **Course on Innovation, Legality and Sustainability of the timber value chain.** PEFC España, 8 May 2018. MAPA participation.
- ▶ **Meeting on Legality of Marketed Timber.** PEFC España within the Emplea programme, 20 June 2018. MAPA participation and relevant authority (RA) of Andalucía.
- ▶ **The EUTR Regulations and obligations of forestry companies.** RA Catalunya, 9 March 2018.
- ▶ **FSC timber, EUTR and construction in Galicia.** FSC, 26 April 2018. Galicia RA participation.
- ▶ **Meeting on EUTR, Due Diligence for Agents 1 and Agents 2.** Baskegur, 3 March 2018. Basque Country RA participation.





### International Newsletter on EUTR

*\* The content of these newsletters manifests the opinion of the authors. The MAPA shall not be responsible for the use that could be made of the information contained.*

- ▶ **Briefing Notes of the European Union**  
November 2017 – January 2018 – [See newsletter](#)  
February 2018 – March 2018 – [See newsletter](#)
- ▶ **EUTR News – March 2017 to March 2018**  
Client Earth, 2018 – [See newsletter](#)
- ▶ **EUTR News – March – May 2018**  
Client Earth, 2018 – [See newsletter](#)

Trees and timber contribute to make your city healthier and more sustainable. We are working from the @mapagob and the autonomous regions to comply with legal timber requirements

#maderalegal #EUTR #FLEGT #IntlForestDay #DiaInternacionaldelosBosques

<https://twitter.com/mapagob/status/976405744089264133>



### More information

[https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/politica-forestal/Madera\\_Legal\\_FLEGT\\_EUTR/](https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/politica-forestal/Madera_Legal_FLEGT_EUTR/)